

HABS No. ID-110-B

Hornet Ranger Station, Office (Building No. 1208)
Payette National Forest
National Forest Road No. 50002
Council Vicinity
Adams County
Idaho

HABS
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2-COUN.V,
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PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Western Region
Department of the Interior
San Francisco, California 94107

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HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

HORNET RANGER STATION, OFFICE (Bldg. No. 1208)
HABS No. ID-110-B

Location: Payette National Forest
15 miles southwest of Council
0.2 miles north of Washington County line
National Forest Road No. 50002, at Mill Creek
Adams County
Idaho

U.S.G.S. 7.5 minute Hornet SW, ID, quadrangle
Universal Transverse Mercator coordinates:
11.529300.4965000

Present Owner: Payette National Forest
U.S. Department of Agriculture
1026 Park Street
McCall, Idaho 83638

Present Use: Abandoned

Statement of Significance:

The Hornet Ranger Station forms important historical associations with two federal agencies: the U.S. Forest Service and the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC). Both of these agencies were instrumental in the regional development of the West during the first half of the twentieth century.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History

1. Date of erection: The office/dwelling was constructed in 1934.

2. Architect/Builder: The office/dwelling was built as a modified "Region R-4 Plan #5 Office." It was built as part of a cooperative project between personnel of the Weiser National Forest and the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC).

3. Original and subsequent owners: The office/dwelling has always been property of the U.S. Forest Service.

4. Alterations and additions: The building was originally painted white with green trim. It is currently painted avocado green with white trim. Telephone service was added in the 1950s. Originally, the roof was covered with milled wooden shingles.

B. Historical Context: See overview for complex.

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement

The Office/Dwelling is a one and one-half story structure, 29 feet 10 inches long (N-S) by 18 feet 4 inches. It measures 20 feet high from the ground to the peak of the roof. The dwelling/office consists of one large room. The rear portion has been divided to facilitate office storage. A small crawl space furnishes access to the attic.

1. Architectural character: the one and one-half story wood frame building with "double drop" horizontal siding is a "Plan R-4 #5" office modified for use as a dwelling. The building also functioned as an office for visiting supervisors and other managerial personnel. It combined several elements specific to office plans (nos. 50-54), though "in no cases will these offices be built for Ranger's office quarters" (Rutledge 1935:BP-12). The building is a typical example of regional Forest Service architecture.

2. Condition of the fabric: The overall condition of the historic fabric is good. There are several places near the ground level where the siding has rotted.

C. Description of the Exterior

1. Foundations: The structure has a "footer" dressed concrete foundation. There are two vents; one each centrally located along both the east and west wall.

2. Walls: The frame building is constructed with milled dimensional lumber of Douglas fir and ponderosa pine. Wire nails were employed throughout as fasteners. Walls are set upon "2 by 6" sills. The exterior is faced with "2 inch double drop" overlapping siding. The corners of the building are trimmed in white.

3. Doors: The structure contains two doors with identical dimensions measuring 6.75 feet (high) by 2.5 feet (width). The main entry is a four paneled door with four panes of glass positioned left of the gable. The rear door contains five panels and is located along the east elevation at the northeast corner.

4. Windows: The fenestration utilizes four horizontal double sash windows; one on each side of the building. Each window contains six panes of glass arranged "one-over-one." Windows measure 2.5 feet by 5.5 feet.

5. Roof: The gable roof is constructed with "2 by 4" rafters of Douglas fir with evenly spaced fir plywood sheathing. The entire surface is covered with corrugated aluminum painted green. Identical triangular louvered vents are situated directly beneath the peak at both ends of the roofline.

6. Porch: A concrete porch with three evenly spaced wooden (common fir) posts extends across the facade. Two sets of two concrete steps furnish access to the porch and main entryway. The porch ceiling employs a pine wainscoting painted green.

C. Description of the Interior

1. Floor plan: The floor plan consists of a single room; the rear portion is divided to accommodate office storage. A small crawl space furnishes access to the attic.

2. Flooring and ceiling: The original flooring was constructed of tongue and groove pine. It was later covered with large sheets of linoleum with the exception of the floor space used for storage. The ceiling is finished with a light weight fiber board that has been spackled and painted.

3. Other features: The interior walls are covered with fiber board and plywood. Walls are painted and off-white; wooden baseboards and trim are painted light blue. The single interior door (access to rear storage) is made of wood and contains five horizontal panels. Storage cabinets and file drawers are made from plywood and pine.